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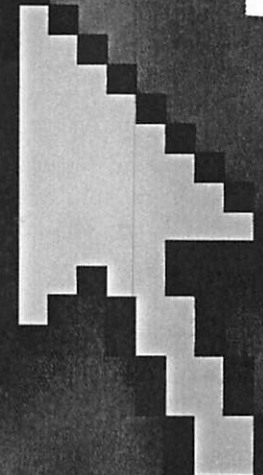


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PUBLISHED BY

Microsoft Press
A Division of Microsoft Corporation
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, Washington 98052-6399

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Microsoft Computer Dictionary. -- 4th ed.

p. cm.

Previous eds. published under title: Microsoft Press computer dictionary

ISBN 0-7394-0880-1

1. Computers Dictionaries. 2. Microcomputers Dictionaries.

I. Microsoft Press computer dictionary.

QA76.15.M538 1999

004'.03--dc21

99-20168

CIP

Printed and bound in the United States of America.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 MLML 4 3 2 1 0 9

Distributed in Canada by Penguin Books Canada Limited.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

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data network

data type

supported by a database management system (DBMS). Thus, one speaks of a relational DBMS, a network DBMS, and so on, depending on the type of data model a DBMS supports. In general, a DBMS supports only one data model as a practical rather than a theoretical restriction.

data network *n.* A network designed for transferring data encoded as digital signals, as opposed to a voice network, which transmits analog signals.

Data Over Cable Service Interface Specification *n.* See DOCSIS.

data packet *n.* See packet.

data path *n.* The route that a signal follows as it travels through a computer network.

data point *n.* Any pair of numeric values plotted on a chart.

data processing *n.* 1. The general work performed by computers. 2. More specifically, the manipulation of data to transform it into some desired result. *Acronym:* DP. Also called ADP, automatic data processing, EDP, electronic data processing. See also centralized processing, decentralized processing, distributed processing.

Data Processing Management Association *n.* See DPMA.

data projector *n.* A device, similar to a slide projector, that projects the video monitor output of a computer onto a screen.

data protection *n.* The process of ensuring the preservation, integrity, and reliability of data. See also data integrity.

data rate *n.* The speed at which a circuit or communications line can transfer information, usually measured in bits per second (bps).

data record *n.* See record¹.

data reduction *n.* The process of converting raw data to a more useful form by scaling, smoothing, ordering, or other editing procedures.

data segment *n.* The portion of memory or auxiliary storage that contains the data used by a program.

Data Service Unit *n.* See DDS.

data set *n.* 1. A collection of related information made up of separate elements that can be treated as a unit in data handling. 2. In communications, a modem. See also modem.

Data Set Ready *n.* See DSR.

data sharing *n.* The use of a single file by more than one person or computer. Data sharing can be done by physically transferring a file from one computer to another, or, more commonly, by networking and computer-to-computer communications.

data signal *n.* The information transmitted over a line or circuit. It consists of binary digits and can include actual information or messages and other elements such as control characters or error-checking codes.

data sink *n.* 1. Any recording medium where data can be stored until needed. 2. In communications, the portion of a Data Terminal Equipment (DTE) device that receives transmitted data.

data source *n.* 1. The originator of computer data, frequently an analog or digital data collection device. 2. In communications, the portion of a Data Terminal Equipment (DTE) device that sends data.

data stream *n.* An undifferentiated, byte-by-byte flow of data.

data structure *n.* An organizational scheme, such as a record or array, that can be applied to data to facilitate interpreting the data or performing operations on it.

data switch *n.* A device in a computer system that routes incoming data to various locations.

Data Terminal Equipment *n.* See DTE.

Data Terminal Ready *n.* See DTR.

data traffic *n.* The exchange of electronic messages—control and data—across a network. Traffic capacity is measured in bandwidth; traffic speed is measured in bits per unit of time.

data transfer *n.* The movement of information from one location to another, either within a computer (as from a disk drive to memory), between a computer and an external device (as between a file server and a computer on a network), or between separate computers.

data transfer rate *n.* See data rate.

data transmission *n.* The electronic transfer of information from a sending device to a receiving device.

data type *n.* In programming, a definition of a set of data that specifies the possible range of values of the set, the operations that can be performed on the values, and the way in which the values are stored in memory. Defining the data type allows a computer to